



June 15, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 11-65

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the President of the University of New Mexico (UNM), I would like to state my support for the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and urge you to approve this transaction for the sake of our university community and the many rural communities we serve around New Mexico.

As we move forward with a veritable revolution in communications, especially in broadband and communications products, it is imperative that we maintain our country's competitive edge in advanced technology. This merger stands to offer two main advantages to achieving this objective: One, it will ensure that AT&T will be better positioned to meet the growing demand placed on its networks by the mass proliferation of broadband-enabled devices such as smartphones, netbooks and tablets; and two, it will assist in expanding wireless and mobile broadband coverage in our rural areas, allowing them to compete in the global economy and take advantage of distance learning.

Our main campus is located in Albuquerque, but we also have campuses in Rio Rancho, Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos, and Valencia. It is critical that these areas have the best wireless and mobile broadband access to be part of the high speed communications age. Furthermore, distance learning and online coursework are significant and growing aspects of our university curriculum. Having proper wireless broadband services for students utilizing these capabilities is absolutely essential.

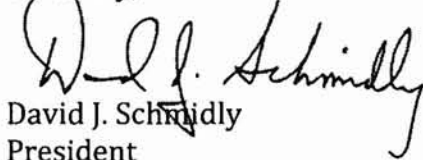
The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will go a long way toward achieving President Obama's goal of covering 98% of all Americans with high-speed broadband, providing a private sector solution to deploying broadband to rural communities across the nation. I welcome AT&T's pledge for expanded 4G coverage to over 97% of our country, including a major portion of our rural communities.

In addition, UNM is a dynamic institution that prizes innovation and a forward-thinking approach to solving problems, especially communications problems. As time marches on, we expect and hope that American wireless companies are able to keep pace with the increased consumer demand for wireless applications, programs, and devices. Given our students' and faculty's dependence on state-of-the-art communications, we support market solutions that ensure that the broadband needs of our campuses are met.

In addition, the advances that may come from this merger will enhance services in the communities our students call home. In addition to the educational opportunities that come from distance learning, increased wireless broadband will improve rural health care in the form of telemedicine. Furthermore, all of our communities, both rural and urban, need the economic development opportunities that are dependent on advances in communications.

Thank you for allowing me to put my comments into the record. I strongly urge you to approve the AT&T/T-Mobile merger, for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,



David J. Schmidly
President

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Robert McDowell